
NEWSLETTER

Comforter Ministry, Inc.



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles; so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

A letter from Su

As I mentioned in the last issue (Comforter Ministry Newsletter-Spring 2017), my husband and I were to take an extended trip to visit our three children and families. All three live outside of the U.S. - Canada, England, and Germany, to be exact. Great places to visit, I know! But of course it isn't about the location, the weather (it rained most of the time and was damp and chilly), the sightseeing, etc.

Picture, right! That is what it is all about! We recognize we are blessed to have good health and the means to visit these families so far away, and we thank God regularly.

These are the Germany grandchildren. Gus was born in Germany in 2016. Avery is a Texas girl! Both are thriving and being exposed to some wonderful cultural experiences, thanks to their parents who are very aware of the opportunities available for all of them while living and working there.



Happy and Healthy Grandchildren! Thank You, Lord!

A mission of comfort and compassion, reaching out to women with cancer with God's Word and the love of the Comforter through journals and quilts.

I would like to point out in this particular issue of CMN the number of quilts received these past couple of months from quilters. THANK YOU SO MUCH! I appreciate your labors of love more than you can know, dear ones. So needed, too! Did you notice the number of CM recipients during the same period? 26! I think that is the most I have ever sent in a three month period. THANK YOU!

Enjoy your summer!

Su

With a Thankful Heart . . .

I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3-5

As of June 1, 2017, 117 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 20 states and one Canadian province have made 495* comforters that have comforted over 666* women with cancer from 37 states (USA), one Canadian province, Australia, the Caribbean, and Japan. As I share the following information with you, my heart overflows with thankfulness to God for each of you.

Quilters.....		Recipients.....			
Alaska	2	Alaska	6	Tennessee	2
Alaska (QG)	2	Arizona	7	Texas	72
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2	Utah	1
				Virginia	5
Arizona	1	California	17	Washington	8
California	1	Colorado	9	West Virginia	2
California (QG)	1	Connecticut	2	Wisconsin	287
Colorado	2	Florida	17	Wyoming	1
Florida	1	Georgia	5		
Illinois (QG)	1	Idaho	2		
Illinois	1	Illinois	26		
Iowa	1	Indiana	10	Australia	1
Kansas	1	Iowa	11	Caribbean	1
		Kansas	7	Japan	1
Michigan	6	Kentucky	8	Ontario, Canada	6
Minnesota	5	Maine	1		
		Michigan	45		
Minnesota (QG)	2	Minnesota	62		
Nebraska	3	Mississippi	2		
		Missouri	3		
		Montana	1		
Nevada	1	Nebraska	9		
North Carolina	1	Nevada	6		
North Dakota	2	New Jersey	1		
Ohio	2	New York	4		
Ohio (QG)	1				
South Dakota (QG)	1	North Carolina	8		
		North Dakota	3		
Texas	3	Ohio	8		
Texas (QG)	2	Oklahoma	5		
		South Dakota	7		
Washington	1				
Wisconsin	46				
Wisconsin (QG)	18				
Wisconsin (LGP)	1				
Wyoming	1				
Ontario, Canada (QG)	1				

*Several comforters have been given on behalf of the Comforter Ministry, but I have not been given further information as to names of recipients, addresses, etc.

QG=Quilt Group

LGP=Lutheran Girl Pioneers

I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. Isaiah 42:6

Prayers . . .

The prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective. James 5:16

- ♥ Pray for a cure for CANCER
- ♥ Pray for women who have been diagnosed with cancer
- ♥ Pray for the Comforter Ministry

Gifts Received . . .

And whatever you do; whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

- ♥ **Dad and Mom N**, Arbor Vitae, WI for helping me with the mailing of the Spring Issue of the Comforter Ministry Newsletter – **Thanks so much, Dad and Mom!**
- ♥ **Janell S**, Tomahawk, WI for lovely handmade note cards/envelopes - **Thank you, Janell!**
- ♥ **Linda J**, Manitowoc, WI for beautiful handmade note cards/envelopes - **Thank you, Linda!**
- ♥ **Gifts of Money** received since March 1, 2017 – **Pauline S**, Presque Isle, WI; **Brenna E**, Colorado Springs, CO; **Bev C**, Arbor Vitae, WI; **Carole H**, Manitowoc, WI; **Joyce N**, Bonduel, WI; **Ethel Z**, Algoma, WI; **Thank You! Thank You!**

Michele E and her Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Class at St. Paul's Lutheran in Muskego, WI and Loving Shepherd Lutheran's Ladies Evening Guild in Milwaukee, WI sent donations to Comforter Ministry, Inc. THANK YOU, LADIES, SO MUCH!

Michele wrote "My Bible Class at St. Paul's Lutheran in Muskego took up a collection to help you with your Comforter Ministry. We hope this...helps. God Bless"

CM Basics

Requester's Basic Instruction

- If you know of a woman with cancer whom you would like to receive a CM comforter and journal you may contact Comforter Ministry, Inc. and request they be sent to her, providing the recipient's name and complete mailing address. A cover letter will be included, stating YOU are the one requesting they be sent.

Quilter(s) Basic Instructions

- Make your quilt according to CM "Criteria for Making and Donating a Comforter" (criteria by request to CM or go to CM Website). Make sure your name, city, state and date you finished your quilt are displayed in some permanent method on the back of your quilt.
- Request CM journal, and fill out "Greetings from the Quilter" page of journal.
- Provide three (3) colored pictures (preferably all the same) of your quilt.
- Send Quilt, Journal and Pictures to Comforter Ministry, Inc.
- All materials, including postage are covered by Quilter(s).

Recipient's Basic Instructions

Between the cover letter and CM journal all details are provided and explained, including the following:

- who made the request CM comforter/journal be sent to you
- brief explanation of CM
- what to do with the comforter/journal
- when ready to do so, you or your family have several options, including 1) sending comforter/journal back to Comforter Ministry, Inc. 2) sending them on to another woman with cancer 3) keeping both – With option 1 or 2, postage is covered by recipient or recipient's family.
- what to do with the comforter/journal before sending them back to CM or on to another woman with cancer

Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since March 1, 2017 - [Judy H](#), Cary, NC; [*Dawn H](#), Mt. Olive-Suamico, WI; [Barb S](#), Bloomington, MN; [Carolyn & Faith In Action Quilters](#), Rochester, MN; [Tabitha Quilters](#), Emmanuel-Owatonna, MN; [Kathy D](#), Shawano, WI; [Joyce and *Connecting Threads](#), Mt of the Lord-Wausau, WI; [Phyllis F](#), Mukwonago, WI; [Lois S](#), Middleton, WI; [Joyce N](#), Bonduel, WI; [Judy A](#), Wisconsin Rapids, WI; [*Amy K](#), Franklin, WI and [*Margo S](#), Oak Creek, WI; [*Betty P](#), Athelstane, WI; [Pat & Piece with Joy Quilters](#), Pilgrim-Menomonee Falls, WI; [Welcome *new quilters!](#) Thank you, Ladies! Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at www.comforterministry.com, Click [More-Photo Gallery](#).

WORDS OF THANKS

Dear Susanne,

On Sunday, April 23 we held our first (and hopefully, annual) “Pink” game. This year, we have two players..., mothers are in different stages of cancer. We thought this would be a good way to show our support...both families were in attendance.

As an additional show of support and on behalf of the Wisconsin Lutheran College Warriors softball team (check enclosed) we are donating the proceeds from the concession sales that day to Comforter Ministry, Inc.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry.

Sincerely,

Bill C, Head Softball Coach

Wisconsin Lutheran College

THANK YOU, BILL AND WLC! I was thrilled to hear from Bill and his plan to feature CM as the recipient of concession sales for this event. Along with the above letter and check was a picture of the girls and their mothers taken that day at the game. Later he sent a CM Contact Form, requesting CM quilts/journals for each mother.

THANK YOU, QUILTERS JOYCE & CONNECTING THREADS-Mt of the Lord-Wausau, WI and KATHY D-Shawano, WI

WORDS TO SHARE

The beautiful quilt arrive on Thursday, just hours before my appointment with the surgeon. After hearing what he said, I really, really needed the comfort quilt.

Treatment will be determined after the MRI which I will be having in another hour.

Besides being surrounded by the fabric quilt, I have been surrounded by the love and concern of so many wonderful Christian friends...In His love, Joan

THANK YOU, JOAN! THANK YOU, QUILTER KAY J, KINGS, WI!

WORDS OF SYMPATHY ~

My sincere sympathy goes out to Steve J of Wrightstown, WI. Steve’s wife, Sue J passed away on March 7 due to her cancer. Sue was a CM quilter and dear lady.

Sharing What I Know . . .

Because the Comforter Ministry’s mission is to reach out to women with cancer, each Comforter Ministry Newsletter will include information about a specific cancer or a related subject. By being better informed about cancer, my hope is that readers will be aided in detecting cancer in regard to themselves and others and, if necessary, know where to go for further information and qualified assistance.

STOMACH CANCER - PART 3

Stomach cancer usually begins in cells in the inner layer of the stomach. Over time, the cancer may invade more deeply into the stomach wall. A stomach tumor can grow through the stomach’s outer layer into nearby organs, such as the liver, pancreas, esophagus, or intestine. Stomach cancer cells can spread by breaking away from the original tumor. They enter blood vessels or lymph vessels, which branch into all the tissues of the body. The cancer cells may be found in lymph nodes near the stomach. The cancer cells may attach to other tissues and grow to form new tumors that may damage those tissues.

Treatment

The choice of treatment depends mainly on the size and location of the tumor, the stage of disease, and your general health.

Treatment for stomach cancer may involve surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation therapy. You’ll probably receive more than one type of treatment. For example, chemotherapy may be given before or after surgery. It’s often given at the same time as radiation therapy.

You may want to talk with your doctor about taking part in a clinical trial, a research study of new treatment methods. Clinical trials are an important option for people at any stage of stomach cancer.

You may have a team of specialists to help plan your treatment. Your doctor may refer you to a specialist, or you may ask for a referral. Specialists who treat stomach cancer include gastroenterologists, surgeons, medical oncologists, and radiation oncologists. Your health care team may also include an oncology nurse and a registered dietitian.

Your health care team can describe your treatment choices, the expected results, and the possible side effects. Because cancer therapy often damages healthy cells and tissues, side effects are common. Before treatment starts, ask your health care team about possible side effects, how to prevent or reduce these effects, and how treatment may change your normal activities. You and your health care team can work together to make a treatment plan that meets your needs.

Before starting treatment, you might want a second opinion from another doctor about your diagnosis and treatment plan. Some people worry that their doctor will be offended if they ask for a second opinion. Usually the opposite is true. Most doctors welcome a second opinion. And many health insurance companies will pay for a second opinion if you or your doctor requests it. Some companies require a second opinion.

If you get a second opinion, the doctor may agree with your first doctor’s diagnosis and treatment plan. Or the second doctor may suggest another approach. Either way, you’ll have more information and perhaps a greater sense of control. You may also feel more confident about the decisions you make, knowing that you’ve looked carefully at your options.

It may take some time and effort to gather your medical records and see another doctor. Usually it’s not a problem if it takes you several weeks to get a second opinion. In most cases, the delay in starting treatment will not make treatment less effective. To make sure, you should discuss this possible delay with your doctor. Some people with stomach cancer need treatment right away.

There are many ways to find a doctor for a second opinion. You can ask your doctor, a local or state medical society, a nearby hospital, or a medical school for names of specialists.

REMEMBER - IF YOU KNOW OF A WOMAN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER AND WOULD LIKE ME TO SEND HER A COMFORTER MINISTRY QUILT AND JOURNAL, PLEASE CONTACT ME.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you know of an event that provides the opportunity for Display Tables for various ministries/mission endeavors please let me know. I am excited to bring my **CM display boards** along with quilts, Comforter Ministry information, handouts, and MORE to such events.

CONNECTIONS - Saturday, April 29, 2017 - St. John’s Lutheran Church, Newtonburg, WI

- 125+ people visited the 3-hour CONNECTIONS event
- 20+ ministries were represented by displays, including CM :)
- area Bible study opportunities were shared on a Bible Study Resource Sheet
- some friendships were renewed - new friendships were made
- music, food, door prizes, and more
- great idea for others to plan as a regional event for women to “connect”
- THANK YOU, COORDINATOR SUE FINK

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP -

Are you willing to display a **CM poster** at your church, school, quilt shop, oncology office, wherever you can get permission? Please contact me and I will be pleased to send what you need. Thank You!

CM brochures are also available so please contact me and I can send you as many as you need in order to help promote CM!

NEED A SPEAKER?

COMFORTER MINISTRY PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

I would appreciate the opportunity to share with many others the ministry/mission of Comforter Ministry, Inc. which could include a Comforter Ministry Prayer Gathering/Prayer Bible Study if applicable.

You are encouraged to contact me and we can determine if date, time, and place can be arranged. My hope and prayer for 2017? To search for ways to get the word out about the Comforter Ministry and the blessing it offers women diagnosed with cancer. Will you help me?

QUILTS***QUILTS*****QUILTS*****QUILTS*****QUILTS*****QUILTS*******

The Comforter Ministry is always in need of quilts so if you are a quilter or know of a quilter, please share with them my contact information.

Although I can purchase quilts if absolutely necessary (with gift money) I prefer sending a quilt made by someone who has a heart of compassion for others, that human touch that touches the soul of another which is such a beautiful part of this ministry/mission. **Let me know if you need criteria information for making and donating a quilt for CM or if you have any questions. THANK YOU!**

Words of Comfort . . .

This meditation and several to follow in future newsletters are reprinted with permission from a book written by Reverend Mark Gass. *Be Still 45 Days of Living in God's Stillness* is a “deeply personal devotion book...Pastor Mark Gass shares his 42-day journey at the bedside of his wife as she lay in a coma after surgery on a brain tumor. E-mails shared with his congregation and a network of supporters take readers inside the journey of a family holding on to Jesus' reminder to 'Be still' in all of life's troubles...” Let me know if you would like a copy of this book by Pastor Mark Gass.

“But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.” Psalm 33:18

DAY 11

The eye of the Lord is on everything that happens in this world. Nothing escapes his notice, and nothing happens without his permission. This point is driven home by the illustration just before this verse: “No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.” God is a sure hope, while a horse - a symbol of man's strength - is a vain hope. It is an empty, hollow strength that will give way. Many kings have risen to great heights, but when the decree of heaven goes out, the mighty kings fall. At the battle of Arbela, in 331 B.C., the Persian army numbered between 500,000 and 1 million men, but it was completely routed by Alexander the Great's army of 50,000. Napoleon led more than half a million men into Russia, but after one winter, they were a devastated group, and soon Napoleon was a prisoner. How many people have tried to put their hope in their own strength, their own wisdom, their own ability, only to be defeated or brought low? Many of the mightiest men of this world now call hell their eternal home. Nothing they did, nothing they devised with their own intelligence could they give to God to earn their salvation. The eyes of the Lord wanted to look on them but their pride rejected his love. They trusted only in themselves. But those who put their hope in the Lord can trust that his eye looks upon them with unfailing love.

Consider this example. The sun shines upon the whole world and provides heat and light. But take a magnifying glass and concentrate the beam of light on a piece of paper and it will set fire to the paper. God, in his providence, looks with general care upon his entire creation. But when he shines down with the sam of his love upon a believer, that person's heart burns with forgiveness and mercy and hope.

Later in this psalm the writer says, “We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.” During a storm at sea, while most of the passengers aboard a ship were frantic and running about, one young man was not only at peace but actually merry. “How can you be happy and peaceful a time like this?” he was asked. To this, in faith and hope, he responded that the pilot of the ship was his father and he knew that his father would take care of him.

The great and wise God, who is our Father, has from the beginning of time determined the events of the world and our life. He is the pilot sitting at the stern of our life. Even when the ship of the church or of the state or of our lives is sinking, we can be of good comfort because he will take care of us.

*Jesus, Savior pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal.
Chart and compass come from thee:
Jesus, Savior, pilot me. (CW 433)*